Human Resources Bulletin

Number 03-06

DISTRIBUTION: A

All Full Time Support Personnel

14 March 2003

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Women Pioneering the Future

Quote of the Month: "We women of the United States of America, believing that the best good of humanity will be advanced by efforts toward greater unity of sympathy and purpose, and that a voluntary association of individuals so united will best serve the highest good of the family, the community, the state, so hereby freely band ourselves together into a federation of all races, creeds and traditions, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law."

-From founding document of the National Council of Woman of the United States, 1888. The Council was formed by Susan B. Anthony with the encouragement of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and was composed of national organizations and affiliated associations all pledged to working for issues concerning women, among them, the right to vote.

Highlights for This Month in U.S. Women's History

March 8 - A day internationally recognized as International Women's Day - it's origins tracing back to protests US and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women.

March 31, 1776 - Abigail Adams writes to husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence: "Remember the ladies..."

March 20, 1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin", is published and becomes America's first book to sell over 1 million copies.

March 30, 1888 - The National Council of Women of the US is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

March 12, 1910 - Camp Fire Girls is founded, the first American interracial, non-sectarian organization.

March 4, 1917 - Jeannette Rankin of Montana is sworn in as the first female member of Congress.

March 23, 1917 - Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf.

March 6, 1934 - Eleanor Roosevell becomes the first First lady to travel by air to a foreign country.

March 2, 1973 - Women begin pilot training for the US Navy.

March 1, 1978 - Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma, CA.

March 21, 1986 - Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win gold medal in a world skating competition.

March 1, 1987 - Congressional resolution naming Women's History Month is passed.

Enclosure #1

March Birthdays:

March 23, 1857 (1915) - Fannie Farmer - authored famous cookbook, "The Boston Cooking-School Cookbook", including accurate and specific ingredient measurements for the first time that would become standardized cooking measurements.

March 31, 1889 (1975) - Muriel Wright - Choctaw Indian; fought for Recompensation for First Americans.

March 24, 1912 - Dorothy Height - Served over 40 years as President, National Council of Negro Women; 2002 NWHP Women's History Month honoree.

March 23, 1924 (1980) - Bette Nesmith Graham - invented Liquid Paper in her kitchen; sold her company to Gillette Corp. for \$47.5 million; created 2 foundations to help women find new ways to make a living.

March 27, 1924 (1990) - Sarah Vaughan - World renown jazz singer and pianist known as the "Divine One."

March 9, 1928 (1987) - Graciela Olivarez - Chicana activist; first woman and Latino law graduate from Notre Dame Law School; first woman chair of Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

March 26, 1930 - Sandra Day O'Connor - First woman to join Supreme Court as justice (1981).

March 5, 1931 - Geraldyn (Jerrie) Cobb - Record-setting aviator; first woman to pass qualifying exams for astronaut training, 1959 but rejected as military did not allow female jet pilots at the time.

March 16, 1933 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg - Supreme Court Justice.

March 25, 1935 - Gloria Steinem - Women's rights activist and journalist; founding editor of Ms. Magazine; helped found National Women's Political Caucus, the Women's Action Alliance, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

March 7, 1938 - Janet Guthrie - Pioneering woman auto racer; first woman to compete in Indianapolis 500 (1977) and Daytona 500 (1977); only woman to place in top 10 finish at Indy 500 (1978).

March 3, 1962 - Jackie Joyner-Kersee - Considered the world's greatest female athlete; most decorated woman in U.S. Olympic track and field history with sixth Games medals overall.

March 18, 1964 - Bonnie Blair - Speed skater; the most successful Winter Olympian in US history and 5 time gold medalist.

www.nwhp.org/whm/themas/honoraes03.html

Women's History Month, 2003

By the President of the United States of America -The Proclamation

As our Founding Fathers worked to develop the framework of our Nation, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband: "I long to hear that you have declared an independency -- and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." An early advocate of women's rights, a farm and financial manager, and the mother of an American President, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams is one of many American women who helped establish the strength and vitality of our Nation. During Women's History Month, we recognize the generations of American women whose important contributions continue to shape our Nation and enrich our society.

Through vision, hard work, and determination, countless American women have broadened opportunities for themselves and for others at home, in the community, and in the workplace. In 1809, Mary Kies became the first woman to receive a U.S. patent. By developing a method of weaving straw with silk, she helped advance American industry and set an inspiring example for other American women. Her pioneering efforts helped define our country's entrepreneurial spirit and paved the way for future generations of women to take pride in their talents and creativity.

Since Mary Kies' groundbreaking achievement, many American women have become successful entrepreneurs and business professionals. In 1905, Madam C.J. Walker started her own business by creating and selling hair care products for African-American women. After a decade, her company was highly successful and employed more than 3,000 people, and at the time, was the largest African-American owned business in the United States. Today, Madam Walker is remembered for her business accomplishments, efforts to create new opportunities for women and for her contributions to her community.

Driven by the legacy of these extraordinary figures, American women from all backgrounds continue to break barriers and fulfill their personal and professional potential. At the dawn of the 21st century, women have more choices than ever before. Between 1992 and 2002, the number of female college graduates in the United States has increased from 15.9 million to 23.6 million. Women account for 47 percent of all employed persons and are entering the American workforce in record numbers. In the last 10 years, their ranks have increased by 8.7 million. Furthermore, women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other U.S. firms, employing 7 million Americans and contributing to the vitality of our economy. To build on these successes, my Administration will continue our work to promote policies that advance the aspirations, hopes, and dreams of every American.

This month, as we celebrate remarkable women in our Nation's past, I encourage all citizens to recognize the countless American women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social, and cultural life of our great Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2003 as Women's History Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of American women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House

www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/proclamation03.html